

THE TOP TEN

ISSUES OF INTEREST IN LANCASTER COUNTY

September 2006

1. Coalitions are alive and well. Below is a brief description and contact person should you want more detailed information:
 - Family Violence Council - addresses public education, data collection and systems change. Annual reports available. Contact Bob Moyer, 489-9292.
 - Homeless Coalition - is examining appropriate data collection systems, homeless teens, and funding opportunities. Contact Bradd Schmeichel, Urban Development, 441-7856.
 - Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Coalition - is a broad representation of community agencies, organizations and individuals working together to find common solutions to the issues resulting from teen pregnancy. The coalition respects a diversity of philosophical viewpoints and does not, as a group, advocate for specific solutions and viewpoints, but leaves these philosophical positions to each member organization. As a group, the Coalition works together in those areas of group agreement. Contact: Planned Parenthood, 441-3300.
 - New Americans Task Force - addresses issues which encourage acceptance, cultural competency, and acculturation issues of new persons coming into this country. Contact: Jason Varga, First Project, at 488-6760 or go to: www.newamericanstaskforce.org.
 - Human Services Federation (HSF) - a network of 106 agencies dedicated to providing a quality of life in Lincoln, Lancaster County through the provision of a cost effective, accessible, and culturally competent human service network. Contact Rick Carter, Director, 441-4399 or go to: www.hsfed.org.
 - CSI-Lincoln - is the implementation process of strategic planning in six key areas. To become involved call 441-4399.
 - Juvenile Justice Review Committee (JJRC) - addresses issues of prevention, intervention, and aftercare of youth in or at risk of entering the juvenile justice system. Contact Corey Steel, Juvenile Justice Coordinator, 441-8495.
2. The Hub—a transitional services project for high risk youth/young adults ages 16-24 has served for 390 youth since it opened its doors. It will assist in areas of housing, education, employment, behavioral health and other emergency needs where no formal and informal support networks are available. Contact Dwight Brown, Project Director, at 471-4515. Location: 727 South 9th Street.

3. Medical Interpretation/Translation is badly needed in this community. With our many new non-English speaking clients, this critical gap is one which the Community Health Endowment, this office, and many partners will be addressing. To become involved, call Karen Bahr at 436-5516.
4. The Second Annual Substance Abuse Action Conference will be held October 2-3, 2006 in Lincoln. Two hundred fifty participants are expected. Continuing Education Units are available. Cost is \$45/person. For more information call Jennifer Brinkman at 525-3958.
5. The Ride for \$5 is alive and well! Low income residents can purchase unlimited ride tickets for \$5 per month (\$10 per month/handi-van). Sixteen sites now offer tickets. For a listing call Wayne Svoboda at 435-2100.
6. The CHIRP (free language line) continues to serve agencies, government office, and physicians. For more information on the CHIRP line call 471-4515 and ask for Cher.
7. Lincoln/Lancaster County is the recipient of 2 federal grants to assist New Americans over the next 3-5 years. The Ethnic Self-Help Grant and TAG Discretionary dollars total over \$241,000 annually.
8. LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Transgender) youth are often a part of our runaway or institutional settings. The Human Services Office, in conjunction with University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Health Center, will be developing a training module for professionals to more appropriately identify and assist these youth. For more information call 441-6868.
9. Lancaster County will be taking a focus on "Youth Problem Gambling" issues in 2007. Often youth do not see "Texas Hold Em" or betting on athletic events as serious gambling. In and by itself... it is not. However, when done often it can be a very costly venture. Project Director, Lisa Oliveres at 465-2422.
10. Lancaster County SAAC (Substance Alcohol Abuse Coalition) has received a CHE grant to study the extent of the methamphetamine problem in Lincoln/Lancaster Co., NE. We will work in conjunction with Lincoln Action Program as we gather data, hold interviews and form final recommendations. Project Director: Dannie Elwood at 483-3168.